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PROGRESS OF SEEDING AT MAY 31, 1972

Winterkilling and Condition of Over-wintered Crops and Rates of Seeding

Seeding of the five spring-sown grains in Canada was 84 per cent completed by May 31. At May 15 seeding of the five spring-sown grains was 27 per cent completed in contrast to 32 per cent last year and the five-year (1966-70) average of 25 per cent. The 84 per cent of seeding completed by May 31, 1972 was the same as the five-year average but below the 90 per cent completed by the same date in 1971.

In the Prairie Provinces where the bulk of the spring grains are grown, seeding was 84 per cent completed at May 31 compared with 91 per cent a year ago and unchanged from the five-year average. Although seeding was not as far advanced by the end of May this year as compared with last year, conditions were generally about normal. In 1972 progress with seeding between May 15 and May 31 was more rapid in Manitoba and Alberta than in 1971 but in Saskatchewan the progress was the same between the two dates in both seasons. The percentage of wheat sown by May 31 in the Prairie Provinces was 92 per cent compared with 97 per cent a year earlier and the same as the five-year average. Some 77 per cent of the oats and 76 per cent of the barley acreage had been seeded compared with 87 per cent in both cases last year and the five-year averages of 75 per cent and 74 per cent respectively. The seeding of flax by May 31 was 71 per cent completed compared with 81 per cent at the same date last year and the five-year average of 59 per cent.

In Ontario progress with seeding was considerably delayed earlier this season so that by May 15 seeding of spring wheat, oats, barley and mixed grains was 45 per cent completed in contrast to 68 per cent in 1971. However weather conditions improved vastly during the second half of May and by May 31 seeding was 95 per cent completed compared with 93 per cent the previous year and the 1966-70 average of 89 per cent. In Quebec, 73 per cent of the five major grains was sown by May 31 this year, compared with the five-year average of 65 per cent and last year's 64 per cent. In the Maritimes seeding this year was 40 per cent completed by the end of May. Some 36 per cent of the four spring grains had been sown in Prince Edward Island along with 31

Note: Excluding Newfoundland for which annual data are not available.

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Crops Section

5502-508

per cent in Nova Scotia and 53 per cent in New Brunswick. The comparable percentages for last year with the five-year averages in brackets, were as follows: 53 (58), 38 (58) and 63 (58) respectively.

In British Columbia at May 31 seeding was 84 per cent completed compared with 92 per cent at the same date in 1971 and the five-year average of 88 per cent.

Seeding of
Rapeseed

The percentage of rapeseed sown in the Prairie Provinces by May 15 and May 31, 1972, respectively, with last year's percentages in brackets: 11 (11) and 74 (80). The percentages of the crop seeded by the end of May, by province, with last year's figures in brackets, are as follows: Manitoba, 66 (75); Saskatchewan, 80 (85) and Alberta, 70 (76).

Estimated Progress of Seeding with Comparisons at May 31 and 15, 1972

	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada
	percentage completed									
	May 31, 1972									
<u>Spring wheat</u>										
Average 1966-70 .	57	64	62	57	81	79	94	94	97	92
1971	64	43	67	72	90	90	98	97	99	97
1972	38	39	58	78	96	81	93	95	92	92
<u>Oats</u>										
Average 1966-70 .	57	57	58	66	89	61	78	82	90	76
1971	52	39	64	64	91	83	90	86	94	84
1972	35	30	55	73	91	71	79	78	85	77
<u>Barley</u>										
Average 1966-70 .	59	58	56	58	89	60	81	73	80	74
1971	58	34	61	64	95	83	93	82	86	87
1972	39	32	47	69	96	72	84	71	76	77
<u>Flaxseed</u>										
Average 1966-70 .	—	—	—	48	81	43	66	84	84	59
1971	—	—	—	62	88	65	87	86	94	81
1972	—	—	—	84	N/A	57	77	82	64	71
<u>Mixed grains</u>										
Average 1966-70 .	58	60	55	61	90	52	68	73	89	77
1971	52	35	57	64	95	82	88	80	92	86
1972	37	30	44	75	97	73	82	72	76	83
<u>Total — Five grains</u>										
Average 1966-70 .	58	58	58	65	89	65	90	83	88	84
1971	53	38	63	64	93	84	95	87	92	90
1972	36	31	53	73	95	74	89	81	84	84
	May 15, 1972									
<u>Spring wheat</u>										
Average 1966-70 .	11	24	14	18	43	15	31	36	52	30
1971	23	27	22	23	71	22	43	37	61	39
1972	4	2	4	8	45	20	36	36	39	34
<u>Oats</u>										
Average 1966-70 .	11	19	15	18	48	9	16	18	37	19
1971	16	19	16	17	64	19	23	20	42	25
1972	5	4	5	9	42	15	20	16	24	18
<u>Barley</u>										
Average 1966-70 .	13	19	17	14	54	10	20	16	21	18
1971	20	17	14	15	71	18	35	20	24	27
1972	4	3	3	7	48	16	27	17	17	22
<u>Flaxseed</u>										
Average 1966-70 .	—	—	—	13	28	4	5	18	29	8
1971	—	—	—	17	81	7	10	20	44	11
1972	—	—	—	6	N/A	5	10	20	4	10
<u>Mixed grains</u>										
Average 1966-70 .	11	21	13	16	53	7	14	13	49	31
1971	22	17	14	16	70	17	17	13	46	40
1972	3	4	2	5	47	15	21	12	36	28
<u>Total — Five grains</u>										
Average 1966-70 .	11	20	15	18	50	11	27	25	35	25
1971	19	19	16	17	68	18	37	24	39	32
1972	4	4	6	9	45	16	31	23	27	27

Condition of Winter
Wheat, Fall Rye, Tame
Hay and Pasture

At May 31, correspondents were asked to report the condition of winter wheat, fall rye and tame hay in their neighbourhood as being above average, average or below average for that time of year. In Ontario, the major winter wheat producing area, 17 per cent of the correspondents reported the winter wheat condition as above average, while 71 per cent reported average and 12 per cent reported below average conditions.

Percentages of correspondents reporting the condition of tame hay, pasture and fall rye in each of the three condition categories as at May 31, 1972 are set out in the accompanying table.

Percentage of Correspondents Reporting Condition of Tame Hay, Pasture and Fall Rye, as Above Average, Average and Below Average at May 31, 1972.

	Tame hay			Pasture			Fall rye		
	Above average	Average	Below average	Above average	Average	Below average	Above average	Average	Below average
P.E.I.	2	14	84	—	10	90	—	—	—
N.S.	2	32	66	2	26	72	—	—	—
N.B.	—	34	66	1	29	70	—	—	—
Que.	4	37	59	4	36	60	25	54	21
Ont.	17	60	23	16	60	24	11	73	16
Man.	25	66	9	26	65	9	15	74	11
Sask.	21	56	23	20	53	27	10	56	34
Alta.	15	55	30	12	50	38	7	53	40
B.C.	10	56	34	11	52	37	9	70	21

Winterkilling of
Winter Wheat, Fall
Rye and Tame Hay

In Ontario it is estimated that 10 per cent of the wheat area seeded in the fall of 1971 was winterkilled, compared with 9 per cent the previous year. Latest reports indicate that 405,000 acres were seeded to this crop in the fall of 1971 and 365,000 survived the winter. Winterkill damage to winter wheat in Alberta is estimated at 5 per cent. Winterkilling of fall-sown rye is estimated as follows, with the previous year's figures in brackets: Canada, 9 (6); Quebec, 41 (5); Ontario, 15 (6); Manitoba 6 (6); Saskatchewan, 10 (7); Alberta, 6 (4); and British Columbia, 4 (3).

During the winter of 1971-72 the following percentages of tame hay acreages, including grasses and legumes, are estimated to have been winterkilled with the corresponding figures for the previous winter in brackets: Canada, 15 (6); Prince Edward Island, 20 (3); Nova Scotia, 11 (4); New Brunswick, 16 (3); Quebec, 35 (8); Ontario, 18 (8); Manitoba, 5 (5); Saskatchewan, 4 (4); Alberta, 4 (5); and British Columbia, 6 (4).

Average Rates
of Seeding

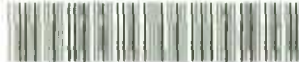
Average rates of seeding as reported by crop correspondents for their own farms this year are set out in the table below. Seeding rates for the various grains show some variation between regions with rates generally heaviest in the Maritimes and lightest in the Prairie Provinces.

Average Rates of Seeding per Acre Reported by Crop Correspondents

1972

Province	Spring wheat	Oats	Barley	Spring Rye	Flaxseed	Rapeseed
	bushels				pounds	
Prince Edward Island	2.3	3.4	2.3	—	—	—
Nova Scotia	2.0	2.9	2.1	—	—	—
New Brunswick	1.9	3.3	2.1	—	—	—
Quebec	1.7	2.9	2.0	1.6	0.8	—
Ontario	1.6	2.3	1.8	1.9	1.1	—
Manitoba	1.4	2.3	1.6	1.2	0.7	8
Saskatchewan	1.3	2.0	1.5	1.1	0.6	7
Alberta	1.4	2.2	1.6	1.0	0.6	7
British Columbia	1.4	2.8	1.9	1.4	0.9	—

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